THE FOURTH ATTEMPT BY SUFFRAGISTS TO CAPTURE THE N.U.T. CONFERENCE.

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),

The history of the three past attempts to capture the N.U.T. Conference by Suffragists may be summarised as follows:—First, the sudden and surprise attack in 1911, at Aberystwyth, where the Executive from within, aided by Mrs. Pankhurst and her following in the town of Aberystwyth, attempted to rush the Conference into passing a Suffrage resolution. This was defeated by 40,653 votes to 12,276.

Second, the organised attempts, resulting from the Executive's circular to the whole of the Associations of the N.U.T., to capture those Associations, so that a Suffrage resolution might be passed at the 1912 Hull Conference. In this instance the Suffragists were at their strongest, but they were defeated by 36,225 to 22,284.

Third, the attempt at the Weston-super-Mare Conference in 1913, when the Suffragists were again handsomely beaten and, in fact, were only able by a mere trick to prevent the subject of Woman Suffrage being prohibited for discussion at future Conferences. It may be well here to remind representatives of the tactics made use of at the last Conference by Suffragists, so that similar attempts may be frustrated this time at Lowestoft.

Briefly, this is what occurred:—Miss I. Cleghorn, the Ex-President of the Union, moved the usual Suffrage resolution, and this was seconded by Mr. F. C. Blackburn, of the Executive. Mr. A. E. Cook (North-West London) thereupon moved the following amendment:—"This Conference is of opinion that the question of Women's Suffrage is outside the scope of the objects of the N.U.T., and hereby instructs the Executive to refrain from supporting all motions bearing upon that subject." After an animated discussion, Mr. Cook's amendment was carried, on a show of hands, by a large majority.

Before, however, this amendment could be voted upon as a substantive motion Mr. G. D. Bell (East London) moved the "Previous Question," and it became obvious that the object of the Suffragists was either to talk the matter out, or to prevent a vote being taken on Mr. Cook's resolution as a substantive motion. The plan succeeded. The talking was kept up until five minutes to the time at which only unopposed business could be taken. Then the "Previous Question" was put to the meeting and heavily lost on a show of hands. Then came the final wriggle which saved the Suffrage cause from ruin in the N.U.T., for that time at least. A division was demanded and the time occupied in this, of course, prevented the substantive motion being put. The Suffragists were more heavily defeated than at Hull—42,150 to 20,499—but they were unfortunately not hindered from working further mischief and wasting more time at future Conferences of the N.U.T.

It might have been thought that the Executive had, at last, learnt its lesson, and in fact a considerable minority, including Messrs. Bentliff, Bowie, Coward, Crook, Davies, Flavell, Folland, Hamilton, Jackman, Nicholas, Pearson and Powell, would have been glad to drop the subject (see "The Schoolmaster," May 10th, 1913). But the majority (20 against 12, besides 2 non-voters) urged by the "Ladies' Committee," decided to again put it on the agenda, in the name of the Executive, for the Lowestoft Conference in 1914; and, **during the debate, it was made quite clear that the object was not merely to obtain "sympathy" for Woman Suffragists, but also to utilise the machinery of the Union for the purpose of propaganda work in connection with the Franchise movement** (see "The Schoolmaster," May 10th, 1913).

It behoves therefore all Anti-Suffragist members of the Union, all neutrals, and all Suffragists who do not approve of the tactics mentioned, and who do not wish to see the N.U.T. changed from an educational body to one divided into political camps, once and for all, at this Conference, to put it out of the power of Suffragists to wreck our meetings and waste our time for the future.

A meeting has been arranged for SATURDAY, APRIL 11th, in LEIGHTON'S ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LONDON ROAD, at 7.30 o'clock. Mr. E. J. SAINSBURY will preside, and a protest will be made, and a line of action planned against the Executive's motion.

This circular being printed before the issue of the literature supplied to representatives to Conference, it has been impossible to give the figures showing the weakness of the support given to the Suffrage resolution, but this and other arguments will be forthcoming at the proper time.

You are urged to attend the meeting yourself, make it known to and bring sympathising representatives; and also to **make it a point to attend the Session of Conference when the Suffrage resolution comes forward,** so as to vote and, if necessary, speak against it.

Please remember that the Suffragists will strain every nerve and use all kinds of means to impress you, but remember that the vast body of members of the N.U.T. is with you and looking to you to rid them of the Woman-Suffrage-obstruction-at-meetings nuisance.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. ABBOTT, Buckfastleigh, Devon.
F. E. ALLEN (Miss), Ty Dafydd, Nantyglo, Mon.
W. ALLEN (Miss), Garnfach Council School, Nantyglo, Mon.
M ALLITSON (Miss), Campbell St. L.C.C. School, Maida Hill, W.
E. ANSELL (Miss), 12, Old Deer Park Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.
S. ASPINALL, 57, Westbourne Grove, Harpurhey, Manchester.
E. M. BAILEY (Miss), 59, Vernon Road, East Sheen.
J. BANNERMAN, The Nest, Warrington Road, Harrow.
O. BANNERMAN, The Nest, Warrington Road, Harrow.
F. J. BARTHOLOMEW, 83, Arbuthnot Road, New Cross, S.E.
M. A. BLACKER (Miss), 23, Rowhill Mansions, Rowhill Road, Clapton, N.E.
EDWARD BRUCE, 25, Calais Street, Camberwell Park, S.E.
E. J. CAVE, 121, Highlever Road, North Kensington, W.
E. M. COOPER, 39, Carnarvon Road, Barnet.

W. M. Cooper, 13, Railway Terrace, Thorpe Road, Staines.
E. C. Cox (Miss), 19, Pepys Road, New Cross Gate, S.E.
Georgie Cox (Miss), 19, Pepys Road, New Cross Gate, S.E.
Laura J. Darch (Miss), Grecian Villa, Gerard Road, Weston-super-Mare.
Alma Durrant (Miss), 6, Dorville Crescent, Ravenscourt Park, W.
F. Durrant (Miss), 6, Dorville Crescent, Ravenscourt Park, W.
A. England, Kingskerswell, Devon.
T. H. Elliott, 8, Hart Grove, Ealing Common, W.
Edith K. Fairman (Mrs.), 80, Wymering Mansions, Maida Vale, W.
K. Feltham, 89, Woodside, Wimbledon, Surrey.
E. M. Fielding (Miss), 69, Church Lane, Harpurhey, Manchester.
L. Gee (Miss), 3, Southmoor Road, Oxford.
F. W. S. Gladwin, 97, Dover Road, Wanstead Park, E.
John H. Gorton, School House, Tidebrook, Wadhurst, Sussex.
W. A. Greatbatch, Wulstan, Park Road, Chiswick, W.
A. C. Gronno, 8, Grosvenor Road, Whalley Range, Manchester.
W. J. Gwillam, 100, Spencer Place, Leeds.
J. Teare Hardy, Northleigh, Tywardreath, Cornwall.
Maskell Hardy, 13, Morella Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.
W. Hull, School House, South Brent, Devon.
John Kay, 36, Holland Street, Liverpool.
R. Kirkpatrick, 23, Johnson Street, Cheetham, Manchester.
E. P. Lee (Miss), 37, Erlanger Road, New Cross, S.E.
Hilda Maddison (Miss), Council School, Hinckley.
B. Mann, 115, Rosebery Avenue, Manor Park, E.
C. Martin, West Dene, Swanmore, Bishops' Waltham.
T. Martin Martin, Cuddesdon, Oxford.
S. F. Mather, 15, February Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester.
M. McIvor, 1, Ladbroke Gardens, Notting Hill, W.
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Thomas Patterson.
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Fredk. E. Pearson, Page's Walk L.C.C. School, Bermondsey, S.E.
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Daisy Stringer (Miss), Pupil Teachers' Centre, Broad Weir, Bristol.
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Charles Watson, Cowlinge, Newmarket, Suffolk.
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J. Willcox (Miss), Riverdale, Old Church Road, Clevedon.
P. Williams (Miss), 53, Jedburgh Street, Clapham Common, S.W.
W. Williams, 19, Tennyson Street, Nottingham.
M. A. Wilson, Pensthorpe, Cunningham Park, Harrow.
Henry T. Witt, Winterslow, Salisbury.
W. Wood, 45, Beulah Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
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3rd April, 1914.